



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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21 August 1991

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Cameroon

Government Bans LE MESSENGER Newspaper

AB2008122091 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 19 Aug 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Cameroon, even as an exiled former prime minister returns to the country, the government has taken a number of steps that do not bode well for democracy. Last week, the passports of three opposition leaders and a writer were seized when they wanted to leave the country. Now, the leading political newspaper which has aligned itself to the opposition, LE MESSENGER, has been banned by the government. On the line to Douala, Rashid Meyer spoke to the newspaper's editor, Henri Kebilla, and asked him what happened.

[Begin recording] [Kebilla] This morning we received a letter from the governor of the Littoral Province informing us that LE MESSENGER has been banned until further notice.

[Meyer] Now in the past, LE MESSENGER has been seized. What is the difference this time?

[Kebilla] Well the difference now is we have been asked not to publish any longer. Formerly they used to seize the papers, causing us enormous financial losses, but today they told us we should stop publishing the paper. So all of us now, we have to be unemployed as from this moment, according to the government letter.

[Meyer] Right, so now the government has said you have to close down, all the staff is unemployed. Where to from here? What are you going to do?

[Kebilla] Well we have already replied to the governor, telling him that their decision is illegal. It does not suffice for a governor to get out of bed and write a letter to LE MESSENGER telling them to stop publication. If they pretend that Cameroon is a state of law, the governor has to respect the law. So we told him we regret to inform him that we do not recognize his decision, and we will go ahead with our publication.

[Meyer] So are you intending to publish LE MESSENGER this week?

[Kebilla] Yeah. LE MESSENGER will be coming out this week. [end recording]

Central African Republic

Political Parties Receive Registration Receipts

AB2108100191 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television
Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] We have just received from the Ministry of Public Security and Territorial Administration the list of political parties which received their registration receipts today. They are:

1. the Central African Democratic Rally, RDC, registered under No.001 of 7 August 1991;
2. the Central African Socialist Movement, MSCA, registered under No.002 of 7 August 1991;
3. the Civic Forum, FC, registered under No.003 of 9 August 1991;
4. the Democratic Socialist Party, PSD, registered under No.004 of 9 August 1991;
5. the Patriotic Front for Progress, FPP, registered under No.005 of 2 August 1991; and
6. the Union of the People for Economic and Social Development, UPDES, registered under No.006 of 12 August 1991.

Zaire

Conference Suspended; Foreign Interference Viewed

AB2008190091 Dakar PANA in English 1112 GMT
20 Aug 91

[By Adrien-Honore Mbeyet]

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 Aug (PANA)—The national conference in Zaire was suspended on Thursday following a controversy over the accreditation of delegates representing various groups in the country.

The president of the provisional bureau of the conference, Kalonji Mutambayi, said earlier at a press conference that the postponement of deliberations was aimed at saving the conference from persistent confusion. He said the problem had to do with the identification and registration of delegates adding that its elimination would facilitate the effective commencement of deliberations.

Kalonji also deplored the lack of logistics to enable the conference carry out its work with emphasis on the climate of insecurity and suspicion resulting from the substitution of the list of participating delegates twice or three times. He was also incensed by the absence of members of the radical opposition Sacred Union at the People's Palace and expressed the hope that they would return to help resolve the impasse.

However, the confrontations between political parties at the conference in the past couple of days also gave rise to another development: the acceptance by President Mobutu Sese Seko to meet a high level delegation of the opposition.

One delegate said the development was proof that politics is the art of the impossible, spectacular ups and downs. He did not exclude the fact that realpolitik played a determinant role in the decision of the Zairean head of state to meet his political rivals.

But the leader of the group which calls itself the Concensus Ngoyi Nduba, put the ongoings in clearer perspective when he spoke of the chagrin of a certain opposition sensing it is being marginalised since the head of state decided to meet the leaders of parties and civil associations which are signatories of the Sacred Union Pact.

Political magic, as it were, came into play as neither President Mobutu, Tshisekedi and his friends in the radical opposition nor any one in any case manifested the desire to conquer.

External forces also played various roles which the Kinshasa press was quick to point out. Specifically, they pointed the accusing finger on France and the United States, which according to them, played a major role in the aborted nomination of Tshisekedi wa Muumba as prime minister in July.

The denial by the U.S. ambassador in Kinshasa, Mrs Melissa Wells, failed to convince Zaireans that the internal politics of their country was being manipulated by foreign powers.

For instance, the weekly *L'EVEIL DE CHAMPION DU ZAIRE*, accused the Americans of putting forward a prime minister from the opposition as a way of persuading President Mobutu to resign. The plan could have been to make Tshisekedi take charge of the transition as prime minister and prepare him to stand for president during the subsequent elections.

Thus, they (Americans) were not only going to inject dollars into the market to enable the economy recover, but public opinion was also going to be sufficiently distracted by unfolding events (the resignation of Mubutu and the nomination of Tshisekedi) that it would forget the national conference," [no opening quotation marks as received] the weekly concluded.

Supporting this view another paper, *L'EVEIL DE CHAMPION DU ZAIRE*, cited the appeal by the Patriotic Front of Kinkela urging foreign powers to show constraint in taking position in the ongoings in the country. They must allow the people decide alone, without external influence, it added.

On its part, the *ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY (AZAP)*, cited the valedictory speech made by the Belgian ambassador during a meeting with President Mobutu after his 16 months stay in the country marked by notable deterioration of relations between Brussels and Kinshasa. It said: As everyone knows, the Belgian Government has let it be known that its was counting on the national conference to resume ties with Kinshasa. The Belgian attitude was seen in the Zairian capital as a kind of interference in the internal affairs of the country, the agency added.

The Belgian diplomat who rejected this view, said instead that his country was adopting a neutral attitude vis a vis the political evolution in Zaire.

Thus, while the national media was busy denouncing foreign powers for meddling in the internal affairs of Zaire, the state was accused of betraying the national conference by seeking to ally itself to the Sacred Union, with a view to forming a national union government.

Six Opposition Parties Withdraw From Conference

*AB2008162691 Dakar PANA in English 1251 GMT
20 Aug 91*

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 Aug (PANA)—Six opposition parliamentarians belonging to the sacred union (made up of 130 political groups and civil associations) withdrew from the national conference in Zaire on Monday in protest against the way the provisional bureau is carrying out its duties.

One of them, Kabanga Babadi, vice president of the Union of Federalists and Independents (UFERI), denounced the refusal by the president of the bureau, Pastor Kalonji Mutambay, to explain the absence of the sacred union during the first days of the national forum.

According to Kabanga the inability of the bureau to clarify the issue aims at the exclusion of the radical opposition from the conference organized to enable Zairians to reconcile with one another. He said the attitude reflected nothing else but persistence of the tactics of the Popular Movement of the Revolution (MPR), the former state party.

Kabanga also said that the union, which stands by its decision not to take part in a government of national union which is not established by the national conference, also insists on the reduction of the number of delegates accredited to the forum from 3,458 to 2,850, as decided on by the preparatory commission.

The radical opposition which withdrew from the forum had accepted to send a high-powered delegation to meet President Mobutu Sese Seko. It also called for the establishment of a tripartite commission made up of public institutions, political parties and the civil society for the review of the issue of delegates.

After four days of suspension, the work of the fourth plenary session of the national conference finalised the membership of the provisional bureau with the addition of nine other members on Monday.

The conference also established a 150-man commission made up of 50 people each from the civil society, political parties and public institutions, for the verification of the credentials of the delegates.

Slovo: Power Seizure in USSR Unconstitutional

*MB2108091691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0855 GMT 21 Aug 91*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 21 SAPA—The events in the Soviet Union were very disturbing and could endanger the future of democratic socialism, Mr Joe Slovo, the SA [South African] Communist Party's [SACP] general secretary, said in a statement on Wednesday. He said the seizure of power there was clearly unconstitutional.

"If a state of emergency was necessitated by conditions, it could only have been legitimately imposed by the elected people's representatives who have the constitutional power to do so."

The SACP expressed the hope that this was not a signal for a reversion to everything which in the past did so much to discredit the socialist cause and the image of the CPSU. "Indeed, it appears that the CPSU itself was sidestepped."

He said the people "unshakably committed to democratic socialism" were confident the fresh winds of a reformed socialism, which deposed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev so courageously unleashed under very complex conditions, would not be allowed to die.

"We dismiss as petty propaganda the suggestion of any special relationship between our party and some of the personalities involved in the coup.

"The facts are that in April last year, a delegation of our party, headed by myself in my capacity as general secretary, met a delegation of the CPSU, headed by Gennady Yanayev.

"At that time, Yanayev was a deputy general-secretary of the CPSU.

"The meeting was part of a regular pattern of meetings between our organisation and fraternal parties throughout the world.

"At the meeting, we reiterated our complete support for the reform process under way in the Soviet Union and explained our complete commitment to a multi-party democracy in South Africa," Mr Slovo said. He added that Mr Yanayev reiterated the traditional policy of the Soviet Union in support of the SACP's struggle and also their continued support for sanctions until irreversible change occurred.

Mr Slovo said no agreements were entered into in connection with any form of direct assistance to the SACP, beyond the affirmation of diplomatic and political support for the whole liberation movement of which the SACP was a part. Mr Slovo said: "I see no reason why President Gorbachev should be held incommunicado. This can only continue to fuel suspicion about the motivation behind these events."

Replying to a statement issued on Tuesday by constitutional affairs minister Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Mr Slovo said it would be far more plausible if Mr Viljoen's own party's

record in regard to support for and direct involvement in military and unconstitutional takeovers elsewhere was cleaner. "We hope that Viljoen, as the government's key negotiator, whose task it is to attempt some form of reconciliation, will not allow his nostalgia for the cold war and his anti-communist hysteria to outweigh his concern for the whole negotiations process."

Mr Slovo reiterated the SACP's firm commitment to negotiations in South Africa and "to a future genuine democracy".

PAC Youth Wing Welcomes Events

*MB2108044091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2258 GMT 20 Aug 91*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 20 SAPA—The fall of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was on Tuesday welcomed by the Pan Africanist Congress's [PAC] youth wing, Azanian National Youth Unity [Azanyu].

According to a statement issued by an Azanyu spokesman, Mr Gorbachev, was a traitor who had been "flirting and conspiring with the imperialist West to disintegrate the socialist countries throughout the world".

Azanyu added it did not support a return to Stalinism; rather the organisation supported those "who will be the true custodians of Marxist Leninism in the Soviet Union".

Viljoen on ANC Stand on USSR

*MB2008161091 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1500 GMT 20 Aug 91*

[Text] The minister of constitutional development, Dr. Gerrit Viljoen, has issued a challenge to the ANC [African National Congress] to take a standpoint on the events in the Soviet Union, particularly in view of the ANC's links with the South African Communist Party [SACP].

Dr. Viljoen told our political news staff in Pretoria that it was significant that the ANC was slow in reacting to the coup in the Soviet Union. Dr. Viljoen asked whether the ANC aligned itself with the actions of the new Soviet authority, and if so, how this accorded with the ANC's statements in favor of a democracy.

Dr. Viljoen asked how the ANC's links with the SACP, which had close ties to the new Soviet leaders, would be affected if it dissociated itself from the coup.

CP Leader Comments

*MB2008202491 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2009 GMT 20 Aug 91*

[Text] Bloemfontein Aug 20 SAPA—There was a difference in style between the Conservative Party [CP] and

the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB—Afrikaner Resistance Movement], but the two parties had several things in common, CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht said on Tuesday [20 August] night. "What we have in common with the AWB is that we belong to the same people, speak the same language, have the same opponents and enemies and the same ideals to have our own fatherland governed by our own people," he said. Dr Treurnicht was addressing about 1,300 people in the Bloemfontein City Hall at a public meeting to open the Orange Free State congress of the CP.

"But what about the NP-ANC [National Party-African National Congress] alliance which is trying to persuade whites to give up their political power?"

"The ANC has not given up its goal of taking over exclusive power."

The consensus government which the National Party was trying to sell was nothing but an illusion and Mr F W de Klerk should not try and trick people with the idea. The CP would take part in a referendum under certain conditions. "We are busy compiling a package of our propositions and our own vision for the future."

"We have no peace with Mr de Klerk's initiatives that are leading to black majority rule, nor with his so-called irreversible course. We say it will be reversed."

Referring to the incidents at Ventersdorp, Dr Treurnicht said if the state president wanted to show the African National Congress how strong it was, "then we say you can't smother a nation's spirit through intimidation, you awaken it. You don't destroy a nation by shooting, but you mobilise it".

"If you don't not love your own people, then you are rejected."

"We will not let ourselves be intimidated into a 'yes boss' attitude."

"I say to F W de Klerk your jurisdiction doesn't reach as far as the nearest Ratel to Ventersdorp."

"You are light years away from the heart of the nation."

The government had become a suppressor of its own folk and was engaged in a total onslaught against the nation. "Then Mr de Klerk says we must get rid of our hate and spite. If there is something to get rid of then it's the NP government."

He said it was arrogant of the government to try and change the identity and ideals of a whole nation. "We feel aggrieved that other nations can become independent while our independence is taken away. We are not temporary settlers, this is our land."

The government was, with its initiatives, trying to build a Tower of Babel with artificial nation-building which

had failed elsewhere in the world. In this sense Mr de Klerk, Mr Pik Botha and Dr Dawie de Villiers were all like Rip van Winkels.

They were also wrong in saying that communism was dead. Before the new leader in the Soviet Union even had things under proper control he was promising aid to the SACP [South African Communist Party]. Was this to aid a communist victory in South Africa and for the white government to be replaced by a so-called people's government, Dr Treurnicht asked.

PAC Disagrees With ANC on Interim Government

*MB2008154291 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1100 GMT 20 Aug 91*

[Interview with Pan-Africanist Congress President Clarence Makwetu at 27th National African Federation of Chambers of Commerce in Sun City, Bophuthatswana, by reporter Robert Michel on the "Africa South" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Unity among, and economic empowerment of, black South Africans are the major things being addressed by speakers at the 27th annual conference of the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce [NAFCOC]. [passage omitted]

The 1,500 delegates from South Africa, the African Continent, and overseas, heard PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] President Clarence Makwetu speak on matters regarding the primary purpose of a much needed patriotic front to coordinate strategies of transition among South Africa's liberation movements. Makwetu, however, fell short of explaining to the delegates, who represent a wide range of business sectors, the PAC's view on a future economic dispensation for South Africa.

[Begin recording] [Makwetu] Well any conference in Azania really is of importance to PAC. We have been invited to address these people, and it is our first encounter really to address on an occasion of this nature. So we are trying by all means now. We are preparing for the patriotic front, as you might have heard, and we are trying to brief everybody on the issue of the patriotic front.

[Michel] This is obviously an economic conference. Does the PAC have a special economic program for the future?

[Makwetu] Definitely. PAC has—in fact we have a document here with us which deals with our economic policy, and as everybody knows, politics and economics go hand in hand.

[Michel] Would you like to outline on that?

[Makwetu] Well it's a lengthy document really. I would rather you read the document so that you acquaint yourself with it—the principles involved.

[Michel] Mr. Ramaphosa of the ANC [African National Congress] has sharply criticized government and has asked for an immediate interim government. What is the PAC's stand on that?

[Makwetu] Well we also criticize the government, obviously. That is our position. But on the question of the interim government, we don't agree with the ANC.

[Michel] So you don't want an interim government at the moment?

[Makwetu] Not at the present moment, because we feel we would not like to be coopted to implement policies that have been brought about by this present regime.
[end recording]

Navy Drops Plans To Build Corvette Assault Craft

MB2008151691 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Navy chief Vice Admiral Lambert Woodburn has announced that the Navy has dropped plans to build Corvette assault craft in South Africa. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation at Simonstown, he said the scrapping of the project forms part of drastic future cuts in defense spending.

Admiral Woodburn added, however, that plans to replace submarines and other vessels would have to be implemented within five years as those presently in service would be obsolete by the year 2000. He said the Navy might purchase a locally built vessel for search-and-rescue operations along the South African coast.

Armcor Unveils Weapons at Pretoria Trade Fair

MB2008164091 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English 1500 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The Armaments Corporation of South Africa, also known as Armcor, has unveiled two antitank weapons at the annual trade fair in Pretoria. Army officials say it is the first time that the FT-5 antitank rocket launcher and the 106-mm antitank recoilless gun are being exhibited. The gun is designed to be mounted on panzer vehicles. The fact sheet released at the show says the rocket launcher has a maximum employment range of 600 meters. The 780-mm 5.4-kg rocket can penetrate 650 mm of armor plate, while the 5.9-kg launcher can be operated by two infantrymen, and can be fitted with night sight equipment.

CP Leader on De Klerk, Venstersdorp Events

MB2108054691 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] The leader of the Conservative Party [CP] Dr. Andries Treurnicht, says the third freedom struggle has taken a far more serious turn.

Speaking in the eve of the CP's provincial congress in Bloemfontein, Dr. Treurnicht said the state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, had blood on his hands after the events in Venstersdorp.

He accuses the government of using military force against whites who opposed its reform policy. Dr. Treurnicht said it had been an error of judgment by the government to send several thousand policemen in an atmosphere of war to protect the state president against his own people.

Dr. Treurnicht denied that the CP and the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement], had had an alliance at Venstersdorp, and said that it was the government who had an alliance with the ANC [African National Congress].

Dr. Treurnicht said the CP and the AWB differed in style and details but they belonged to same people, spoke the same language, and had the same enemies.

He rejected the concept of a constituent assembly as a step that would amount to white surrender even before a referendum was held. Dr. Treurnicht said the CP would not necessarily take part in a referendum on a new constitution. The CP would state its own vision of the future for South Africa to the people, and this could happen even before the government held a referendum.

Dr. Treurnicht said his party was not wedded to the concept of a referendum and that it was not committed unconditionally to the government's decision to hold one.

UN 'Outmaneuvered' by Government on Exiles

MB2108065091 Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English 18 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by David Breier and Peta Thornycroft: "Exiles: The Govt May Have Outmanoeuvred UN Team"]

[Text] The South African Government appears to have outmanoeuvred the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] by avoiding a general amnesty for political exiles.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha has acknowledged that the agreement with the UNHCR is not a general amnesty "in the usual sense of the word."

The African National Congress [ANC] this weekend expressed concern at the definition of "political offence" contained in the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the Government and the UNHCR in Geneva this week on the voluntary repatriation of exiles.

Dr. Max Coleman of the Human Rights Commission said exiles had no more guarantee of returning home than the remaining 1,000 political prisoners had of release before there was a new government.

"This government cannot be trusted to honour undertakings, they are not just mean-spirited, but evil," he said.

In the accord between the Government and the UNHCR published this week, the Government maintained its right to prosecute returning exiles who had committed serious common-law crimes such as murder.

This means, in effect, that the Government has reserved its right to prosecute political activists such as Hein Grosskopf who is alleged to have been involved in bomb blasts which killed and injured a number of people.

This exclusion of serious common-law offences is the position the Government had adopted previously by granting amnesty for all political offences except murder, culpable homicide, rape, indecent assault, robbery, fraud or assault where a dangerous wound has been inflicted.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus expressed concern that the definition of a political offence in the memorandum was "very vague" and "we are not quite sure what it means."

But she welcomed the agreement to allow the UNHCR to operate in South Africa where it will open a temporary office.

"The fact that the UNHCR will be here and can see to the safety of our people is very important—a lot of returning exiles have been killed."

A Government spokesman said that every individual case including that of Mr. Grosskopf would have to be checked before they could be given indemnity. He said it was difficult to state in general at this stage who would obtain amnesty.

The memorandum states that the Government will, in the interests of reconciliation, grant amnesty for political offences committed before 12 noon on October 8 last year.

This too is a restatement of the cutoff date for amnesty previously announced by the Government.

The main concession given by the Government appears to be that exiles no longer have to state what offences they require indemnity for, leaving the onus on the Government to discover any serious common-law offences.

In addition the Government has conceded the right of the UNHCR to open an office in South Africa.

But the Government reserves its right to have the final say on amnesty by insisting that nothing in the memorandum will derogate from the "sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa."

And the memorandum states that exiles may only return as unarmed civilians.

According to the UNHCR in Geneva yesterday all that is needed now is for an exile to fill in a repatriation form giving personal details, without having to record any "illegal" political or military activities.

In addition the presence of the UNHCR in South Africa should be some kind of safeguard that no one allowed back by Pretoria can then be arrested, as was the case with the ANC's Mac Maharaj in July last year.

UNHCR officials in Geneva admit the major element in the repatriation programme is trust.

"We have to give this our best shot. We are not expecting any rejections (of indemnity). If there are rejections we will hire lawyers and present the matter.

"We accept there is mistrust, but I am cautiously optimistic things will work out," Mr. Nini Akiwumi, the head of the UNHCR's southern Africa section in Geneva told the SUNDAY STAR.

SAIRR Publication Views Boycotts on Townships

*MB2008204291 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2003 GMT 20 Aug 91*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 20 SAPA—Township residents appear to be bewildered when rent and service boycotts are used as springboards to achieve wider political goals, a study has shown. This finding emerges from a South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) publication, *History of Attacks on Black Local Authorities*, by the institute's special researcher, Jill Wentzel. Details of the study were released by the SAIRR on Tuesday [20 August].

Ms Wentzel says, "One of the reasons why it is so difficult to resolve rent and service charge boycotts is the fact that these are more than protests against increased tariffs—they are also designed as part of an overall strategy to achieve the total collapse of apartheid by rendering black areas ungovernable."

Rank-and-file people had complained that they had little say in planning political action, or in deciding when or whether to aim for goals beyond the immediate ones. Ms Wentzel notes that spokesmen for civic associations have insisted that the civics are elected by local residents, to whom they routinely report back. But, she adds, "apart from local authority elections, which have widely boycotted since 1984, there are no structures through which township residents, through a secret ballot, can choose who speaks on their behalf".

She says that frequent reports of violent coercion to enforce boycotts and stayaways, together with equally frequent complaints in letters to the SOWETAN newspaper, suggest that "not all residents go along with the decisions of the civics". Ms Wentzel also quotes an article in the SOWETAN of February 11 which describes the confusion among township residents:

"Some residents whose townships have been blacked out are fuming. They feel they are pawns in the power game played by the civic associations and the authorities.

"An irritated Tokoza resident said he believed many people were prepared to pay to get their electricity back.

"Many of us are afraid to speak up against the civics because you can get marked and your house is burnt".

Indicating opposing opinion, the SOWETAN article adds, "however, another felt the boycott should continue because blacks have been cheated for far too long".

Ms Wentzel's 30-page report shows the unrest of the 1990s left a legacy of undemocratic practice in the townships, the SAIRR said. Though democratic decision-making was hampered by the arrest of leaders and

other security action, it was also inhibited by the belief that township residents needed to be told what was good for them—often by young activists who acted in support of the civics.

This, said the SAIRR, is illustrated in a work in progress article in 1986, quoted in the report, in which members of the Mamelodi youth organisation said it was necessary to deal with "unwanted elements" such as "sell-outs" and "neutral people who are in-between". The young activists said: "These elements must now be punished, and it is up to us, the youth, to do this.

"The struggle depends on us. We are in a difficult stage of liberation, and we sometimes have to coerce people for their own good. It is better to suffer for a short time and then be free after".

Angola

MPLA Troops Take UNITA-Controlled Location

MB2108095091 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0500 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] troops stationed in Negola attacked (?Chicuaqueia) location on 18 August. The raiders are currently occupying (?Chicuaqueia) location which had been in UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] hands. A source in Huila Province has revealed that the attack lasted seven minutes. It should be noted that under the terms of the Angolan peace accords, armed attacks are described as a violation to the cease-fire.

FAPLA Soldiers Reportedly Fleeing to Namibia

MB2108094691 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0500 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers stationed in Cunene Province are fleeing to Namibia from assembly points where the future Angolan Army is scheduled to be established. Americo Paulino, our correspondent in Cunene Province, reported today that he is not aware of the reasons for the flight into Namibia. Two Namibian citizens were recently killed by FAPLA soldiers who crossed the border illegally. The incident happened a week ago in Namibia's (?Odimbwa) area.

Madagascar

Local Government To Continue Operating Normally

EA2008190091 Antananarivo Radio Madagascar Network in Malagasy 0330 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In view of the speculations and various rumors and in reply to various inquiries—written and made directly—about decentralized communities and the life of the people, the Executive Committee of Antananarivo Province makes the following statement: The members affirm that the decentralized communities at each level throughout Antananarivo Province will continue to discharge their responsibilities as in the past in accordance with the Constitution in force in the country and in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the decentralized communities until the constitution establishing the third republic is completed. The Executive Committee of the Province invites the people to [words indistinct] present various acts of intimidation. The Antananarivo Province Executive Committee members have signed the statement.

Opposition Leaders Meet To Work Out Policies

AB2008175891 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Antananarivo, Aug 20 (AFP)—Madagascar's opposition leaders met on Tuesday to thrash out common policies and agree on a new government after announcing that they had deposed President Didier Ratsiraka, opposition sources said. On Monday the 16-party opposition coalition Hery Velona, or Lifeblood Committee, said it had "deposed" embattled Admiral Ratsiraka, who seemed increasingly isolated after the army warned that it could intervene to prevent "civil war and chaos". [passage omitted]

Sources close to the opposition said leaders of the Lifeblood Committee, who have called for a two-day lull in the demonstrations until Thursday, were meeting privately to agree on a political programme and name remaining members of their "shadow cabinet".

The key members of the shadow administration appointed by the opposition to take the helm if, as now seems almost inevitable, Ratsiraka abandons ship, have already been named. But several important ministerial posts are still to be filled.

The sources said it was important for the opposition to present a credible government and policies on Thursday, when they have called for another mass rally, as they have claimed that the former administration has been ousted and have called for international recognition for their "transitional government".

The opposition has failed to make any policy statements since the demonstrators were killed, contenting itself with attacking Ratsiraka. Diplomats and analysts said the opposition seemed too politically disunited to present a common front.

Life was slowly returning to normal here Monday, with food shops reopening and buses back on the roads. The international airport reopened last week.

There were long queues of cars waiting for petrol, as the strikes have resulted in a severe fuel shortage.

"People seem more relaxed now," said a resident who declined to be named. The sons and daughters of Madagascar's elite packed the Covur nightclub on Sunday evening, most of them dancing till dawn to avoid breaking the loosely enforced nine p.m. to four a.m. curfew.

Opposition supporters have formed people's militias which put up barricades at night, throwing tree-trunks across streets to prevent police or military patrols.

State of Emergency Extended in Antananarivo

EA2008185791 Antananarivo Radio Madagascar
Network in Malagasy 1600 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In accordance with Decree Number 91-474 of 13 August 1991 signed by Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Republic, and Guy Willy Razanamasy, the prime minister, the state of emergency is extended for 15 days as of 21 August in the town of Antananarivo, Antananarivo-Avaradrano, Antananarivo-Atsimondrano, and Ambohidratrimo Sub-Prefectures [Antananarivo and its immediate neighboring sub-prefectures]. The present decree is effective immediately from the time it is broadcast by the national radio and put into the gazette.

Mozambique

Congress To Elect Central Committee 21 Aug

MB2008171091 Dakar PANA in English 1654 GMT
20 Aug 91

[Text] Maputo, 20 Aug. (AIM/PANA)—Elections to the new Central Committee of Mozambique's ruling Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party have been delayed by 24 hours. The elections, held behind closed doors at the party's Sixth Congress, were to have taken place Tuesday (today), but have been postponed to Wednesday, due to the relative complexity of the procedure being used, with which few delegates are familiar.

For the first time in its history, Frelimo is using a secret ballot to elect its leadership. But the ballot is made more complicated by the decision to reserve seats on the committee for each of the country's provinces, as well as for economic and social sectors and for the central structures.

The idea behind this is to ensure that the new Central Committee will have a balanced make-up, with representatives from all major sectors of activity, and covering the entire country.

With about 400 candidates for the 176 seats on the Central Committee, and 700 delegates casting their votes, the count is likely to take a long time. The results are not likely to be announced until Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.

The amended party statutes and programme, defining Frelimo as a party of democratic socialism, were finally approved by delegates on Monday.

Delegate Voting Under Way

MB2108094491 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 0800 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Report from Hall of Congresses by correspondent Lino de Sousa]

[Text] The election of the party's chairman and Central Committee members is under way in Maputo within the framework of the Sixth Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Congress. The election began at 0935. The delegates are casting their secret ballots to elect the party chairman.

Earlier, the Mandates Verification Commission presented its report on the number of delegates attending the congress. Afterward, the Electoral Commission presented the election regulations. More than 400 candidates are contesting the 170 seats of the Central Committee.

* Tete Governor Evaluates Economic Situation

91AF1307A Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
24, 25 Jul 91

[Interview with Tete Province Governor Cadmiel Muthemba by Talbo Mucobora; place, date not given]

[24 Jul 91 p 8]

[Text] The governor of Tete Province, Cadmiel Muthemba, said a few days ago in an interview with NOTICIAS, that despite the adverse circumstances imposed by the war a certain degree of recovery of economic activity is taking place in that province, particularly in the agricultural area. Given the importance of this interview, in which Muthemba also spoke about the problem of repatriating the Mozambican refugees who are still in Malawi, we are publishing the parts of the interview that we regard as most important:

[Mucobora] Governor, to begin with we would like you to tell us briefly about the present situation in Tete Province in terms of the political, economic, and social aspects.

[Muthemba] The political situation can be characterized as one long process of adaptation, both by ourselves and by the general public. With the transformations going on in this country, there has been a certain enthusiasm among many people about the freedoms guaranteed in the new Constitution. Here in Tete we are seeing maneuvers by the new parties that are taking steps to become established. Our party, too, is continuing to carry out its activities within the community and now, as we prepare for the Sixth Congress, we feel that the public is still enthusiastic and that there is a sense of responsibility and critical approach to the status of the party itself. In a general way, we can say that the situation is undergoing a favorable evolution.

The economic aspects, like the political ones, are connected with the present conditions of the war situation that continues to be the biggest concern for everyone. Economic development faces many obstacles in that the movement of people and the economic agents is still very much conditioned by the destabilization and insecurity at various points in the province. However, there is a certain degree of economic recovery, particularly in the

agricultural area. As for the social aspects, which are also closely connected with the economic situation, there are problems/difficulties that result from the high cost of living and the meager levels of production. There is a lot of lawlessness. There has been a resurgence of robberies, mainly in the city. There is juvenile delinquency, the result of the concentration of many people in the cities, with nothing to do. There are also difficulties in accommodating everyone, especially the children in the schools. The educational establishments are too small to serve all these children.

[Mucobora] When the leaders of the political forces that are emerging in this country pursue their activities here, do they contact the local government?

[Muthemba] They never have. Perhaps they see no need for it. But they contact the people; they assemble them, talk to them, and explain their programs. So far, only two parties have shown up here—Unamo [Mozambican National Union], which already has an organization here in this province, and Palmo [Liberal and Democratic Party of Mozambique], which also has a nucleus here. Recently, Mr. Casimiro Nhamitambo made an appearance. I know he met with people from Palmo and others to explain his position as regards that party. But no one from either group contacted the government.

[Mucobora] What is the status of the emergency situation in the province?

[Muthemba] An emergency situation still prevails, because there are many people living in displaced persons centers and in zones that are not very suitable for farming—particularly in the city, and in Changara district due to the drought in the district of Cahora Bassa, and elsewhere. The situation in Mutara is more complex, is more serious. It has not rained this year and so the people have not harvested anything and still need emergency assistance. The entire population of Mutara district needs emergency aid. There are still many people outside Mozambique and those people who are in the neighboring countries need help.

[Mucobora] Is the General Staff of the Economy that was recently created in Tete doing anything about the emergency? What is that body doing at the moment?

[Muthemba] The General Staff of the Economy is supposed to be a unit directed by the Planning Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to plan the economic and social activities in the province, monitor the execution of the plan, and make certain decisions on socioeconomic development. At the moment, one of the important actions being taken by the General Staff of the Economy is the preparation of a reconstruction program, now that there are prospects of peace. We are now working to coordinate all the actions that will have to be taken in peacetime...naturally, if peace is achieved, a lot of reconstruction, re-accommodation of the population into socioeconomic activities, and resettlement of these groups in their native regions will have to be done. That means we need to know right now just what will be

necessary. We are trying to outline activities connected with the rebuilding of the infrastructure, the reopening of access to the water supply program, to health care, to education, etc. These are things that must be done within the short- or medium-term during the postwar period.

[Mucobora] The war that continues to destroy this country has forced many people to take refuge in neighboring Malawi and today, thanks to the relative improvement of the political-military situation, their return is a concern of the Mozambican authorities. Now I know that of the 10,000 Mozambicans who, according to the plan, were supposed to return to the country in 1990, only 425 people arrived last September and since then no others have come, except voluntarily. Can you tell us the main reasons that led to the suspension of organized repatriation?

[Muthemba] No specific decision was made to suspend the repatriation—it is simply that organized repatriation involves the Mozambique and Malawi governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the latter being the financing entity. It happens that despite having been organized, the program is still experiencing financial problems. The UNHCR says there are no funds because the donors did not respond in time for the programs that are planned. Although many people have signed up—at least in Malawi there are more than 6,000 people who signed up to return—problems persist. As long as there are no funds, organized repatriation will not take place. Most of the returnees have come back on their own. As always, people have come on their own initiative, using their own means. It should also be said that, furthermore, there are no funds to take care of those people once they get here. So you could say, basically, that the reasons why the program is not being carried out have to do with financial problems."

[Mucobora] Is there any idea when organized repatriation might resume?

[Muthemba] No dates have been set for the start of this program. The tripartite commission has normally been meeting every three months. We will see what they decide at the next meeting. There are no scheduled dates—only outlines of programs. It should resume this year, but so far nothing has been started.

[Mucobora] Because of the emergency and general development situation many governmental and nongovernmental organizations are working in this province. Governor, can you give us a short review of the activities of those organizations?

[Muthemba] There are in fact some organizations working here in the context of the emergency. Some are working mainly on food supply assistance, others on health, education, water supply, and agriculture. Their actions have a positive effect, given the conditions in this province. It is also true that the organizations have their own norms which, at times, do not coincide with what we consider as being our priorities. However, they are working in several areas: agriculture, assisting with the

seeds program, farm implements, and rural extension services; and in rebuilding classrooms, repairing health clinics, and providing medicines. For example, the Belgian-Dutch Doctors Without Borders are helping with transportation of medicines, nutritional guidance, and making regular visits to the districts where they see patients and perform other health services. But there are also organizations that are working with us, not really in the emergency area, but somewhat more oriented to development programs like reconstruction, economic recovery and, at times, linking the emergency with development so as not to just donate things, but train the people to do things and become self-sufficient. The activities of those organizations are also positive.

[Mucobora] Did the reopening of the "Tete corridor" take place because all the conditions necessary for truck traffic had been created, or was it done more to prevent the catastrophe that was about to "explode" over the city of Tete?

[Muthemba] The thing is that the so-called "Tete corridor" is vital to the province, and when it was blocked off because of the departure of Zimbabwean troops it became necessary to find a solution that would not close the corridor permanently. Well...the conditions were created, and had to be created. We worked very hard, in fact, to keep the supply column from coming to a halt, because to halt would be to die.

It is important to note that conditions are not ideal. For them to become ideal we would need a lot of equipment, and our country does not have the money to import enough equipment to do the job that would maintain the volume of traffic that we used to have until last December. But we have managed to get the supply column functioning regularly, although less frequently and with less intensity. I believe it was necessity that kept us from falling into a catastrophic situation. We are continuing to try to maintain the traffic flow and improve current conditions.

[25 Jul 91 p 8]

[Text] In this final part of the interview that we published in yesterday's edition, Tete Governor Cadmiel Muthemba acknowledged that there is contraband along the borders with Malawi and Zimbabwe. However, the official stated that since illegal imports are occurring to some extent throughout Mozambique, any measures to combat the problem should not be aimed solely at Tete, but should be national.

[Mucobora] Governor, it is obvious that products from Malawi and Zimbabwe have invaded Tete. Is this due only to the normal commercial exchanges that have always taken place near the borders, or is there something illegal about it?

[Muthemba] I think it is a disease that afflicts the whole country. This situation is just like what is happening all over the country. It is not unique to Tete. When I go to Maputo I see that the market is full of cans of beer from

South Africa and Swaziland and the black markets are full of imported products. How these things are imported is a question all of us ask, and so the question is not just for Tete...well if the products here come from Malawi and Zimbabwe it is because those are the countries whose borders are closest to us. But if you check, you will see that here, too, we have a lot of products from South Africa and Swaziland. Commercial exchanges, well...some commercial exchanges are being made by the economic agents, but authorized by the government. These exchanges cover the most vital products. Other goods show up through legal channels. There is the program run by the Ministry of Commerce—a nonadministrative system of allocating foreign exchange. Some merchants here in Tete have benefitted from that system and are arranging imports that are more or less liberalized because they can import the things they consider important. Use of the secondary foreign exchange market is also authorized, provided the individuals have an import license. But in the midst of all this there are other, less clear, ways for those products to come in. We have been studying this problem and do not think the solution is a purely administrative action—seizing merchandise because we do not really know where the importer got the foreign exchange to carry out all those import transactions. A lot has to be done, the subject needs a lot of study, and I think that since the contraband phenomenon is not limited to Tete, we cannot have special measures for Tete that do not apply to the entire country. Otherwise, we will create problems.

[Mucobora] You mean there are economic agents who are importing products without following the legal rules, i.e., without authorization from the commercial entities and without paying customs fees? If so, can that only be explained by incompetence in the Provincial Bureau of Commerce and in the Customs Service?

[Muthemba] Yes. In light of the irregularities, our customs and trade officials have acted to force people to pay customs duties and they are also checking on the taxes. Perhaps with this legislation that regulates the procedure for granting import licenses—which took effect some months ago—things are bound to change for the better. Then too, there is incompetence among the customs officials, especially at the borders. It is very easy to bribe the customs agents.

[Mucobora] From what I gather, Governor, you are acknowledging the existence of illegal imports.

[Muthemba] It would be a little nearsighted of me to say there are no illegal imports.

[Mucobora] The crops this year are the best in the past three years. In some districts, like Angonia where I have been these past four days, not only are there serious problems in getting the harvest to market, but the peasants are expressing their dissatisfaction with the prices paid by Agricom [Agricultural Products Marketing Company] when it buys their products. As a consequence of all that, the farmers are taking large

quantities of products—corn, butter beans, and white potatoes—to Malawi for sale. What is the government's position regarding this situation?

[Muthemba] What Agricom is doing is the result of the effort we are making—simply put, the means available to the provincial government are very limited and this is made worse by the fact that Agricom is not supposed to be the only entity involved in selling and shipping farm products. It happens that many merchants, because of a lack of security and shaky financial status, are not taking part in the marketing process. At this moment it is only Agricom, which is low on funds, that is purchasing and shipping agricultural products. In order for the marketing activity to be carried out successfully you have to guarantee that the public will be supplied. This means that in a zone where people grow corn or beans there should be a commercial network that enables them to buy all they need for normal life—sugar, soap, salt, cooking oil, and other products. At present, supplies in the districts are inadequate. There is no commerce. If you have been to Angonia you must have seen that there are some shops there in the district seat, but none elsewhere. Under those circumstances, it is logical that none of the people there will feel motivated to sell their products to Agricom to get money, when there is nothing to do with that money. In Malawi, they find a commercial network along the border that supplies them with everything, and that is why a considerable portion of the farm products goes to that country. The government has been making efforts—incidentally, that is all we have been able to do—and we would like to do more, but for that we would have to restore the commercial network in the district and that can be done when there is peace. I am convinced that only the restoration of the commercial network in the major agricultural zones will enable us to attract all the surplus produced by our population. Until that is done, no matter what we do, we will only get part of what the people are producing.

[Mucobora] Are you saying that as long as the war continues, our agricultural products will continue to be sold in Malawi?

[Muthemba] Unfortunately. We do not have much chance of stopping it because we cannot go there and say: "You cannot go to Malawi." We have to come to them and say: "This is here, bring your products."

[Mucobora] There are rumors to the effect that, very often, development projects drafted by the district authorities have a hard time getting approved by the provincial government. Do you have any comment on this, Governor?

[Muthemba] I don't know. There are some things that have to be understood here. You have to draft a project that involves financing, and when there is no money it does not get done.... Projects have been submitted and were not carried out because there was no capacity to do so, but others that were feasible did become a reality. The budget we have does not go very far. The projects that came from the districts for inclusion in this year's budget plan came to about 4.5 million contos, but the provincial government's investment budget is only 500,000 contos.

[Mucobora] Could you comment about preparations for the Sixth Congress of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party, which is being held ahead of schedule?

[Muthemba] Preparations for the Sixth Congress are under way in this province and are being carried out according to the schedule that was established earlier. Despite all our difficulties, we have succeeded in getting work done throughout the province. From the discussions we have already observed, we have noted that there is a lot of enthusiasm as a result of all that democratization, the freedoms that have been introduced within the Frelimo Party itself. For example, the principle of individual initiative in running for office within the Party has been very well accepted, and so we already have the names of some people who are announcing their candidacy for the Central Committee and that is very good.... There is a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of participation, plenty of contributions in the form of ideas from both militants and the general public. We have offers to help with the Congress; in short, a lot is happening in terms of these preparations, and so all indications are that the Congress will be a success.

Mali

CTSP Chairman Addresses National Conference

AB1408101091 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television
du Mali Radio in French 2000 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The deliberations of the national conference continue at the Palace of Culture with examination of documents on the state of the nation. At the opening of this morning's meeting, Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, chairman of the Transitional Committee for the Salvation of the People, CTSP, conveyed to the conference reflections and information on the examination of documents on the state of the nation. In his message, the CTSP chairman referred to insecurity in the north of the country and appealed to all Malians to help put an immediate end to violence in that part of the country.

[Begin Toure recording] Ladies and gentlemen, we begin this day, which is regarded as special, with the proceedings of the national conference in the presence of many people. Indeed, as shown by the committee deliberations, the examination of the document on the state of the nation largely drew the attention of all and gave rise, at times, to heated debates. Consequently, before the plenary session examines the report of the committee on the state of the nation, I would like to share some reflections with you and to give you some essential information.

First, it is fortunate that history has, for a few days now, enabled the Malian people, through their representatives of all leanings and walks of life, to examine without complacency issues concerning their present and future. I have said that history made these achievements possible, but then the Malian people also made these possible through 23 years of constant and often ignored struggles against arbitrary rule. The Malian people made history during the rough days of January and March 1991 when they were forced to deal the decisive blow to a shameful regime. There are still other struggles left, but to win them we must be able to show the same perseverance which enabled us to see the light after two decades of autocratic rule.

Ladies and gentlemen, before the conference opened, some people asked whether it would be decent to meet and hold discussions while insecurity and death have led to mourning in the country. I believe that the conference answered this concern through the importance it gave to an issue whose solution is essential to the future of our democracy. In this forum, we have not forgotten the innocent people who are being killed. We cannot overlook the anguish of people in the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Regions who are still living in insecurity. From the platform of the national conference, we solemnly say that the Malian people will no longer tolerate the jeopardy of its fruitful work by gangs whose sole objective is to seek the prevalence of [applause] wanton violence and to prompt the deterioration of the traditional climate of understanding between the Arab, Tamachek, Fulani, and [word indistinct] peoples of our country.

Thus, in pursuance of the unanimous determination expressed by all leanings in this room, the CTSP has decided to call on the peoples in the regions affected by the attacks to provide active assistance to the state for the restoration of peace. [applause] I also seize this opportunity to call on all those who are still carrying arms to lay them down and to join us [applause] so that we can all work together to restore peace and security, and to ensure the prevalence of democracy. [applause] Our determination to resolve domestic problems through consultation is not a show of weakness or a (?call) to destabilization. We have explored various ways of dialogue, but it should be our concern to ensure tranquillity for our people to enable them to engage themselves in the nation-building task. [applause]

Peace in one part of this country does not imply peace throughout Mali. [applause] Without peace in this country there can be no successful transition. [applause] Thus, the CTSP and the government call on all Malians to make more efforts to ensure that the regrettable situation in the North is swiftly and definitively resolved. [applause]

Another issue which is of importance to all our countrymen is the full result of investigations on bloody and economic crimes. [applause] On behalf of the CTSP, I assure them that all measures will be taken to carry out these investigations. [applause] I also assure them that all those who will be convicted for crimes against the Malian people over the past 23 years will be hunted down and judged in conformity with the law. [applause] The new teams of magistrates in charge of the investigations have already registered 259 of them. Justice will, therefore, be handed down in full openness and in respect of law.

Before concluding, I would like to greet the presence at this meeting of two categories of participants who were voiceless under the former regime. First, there are the farmers [applause] who have clearly identified their problems and the means of solving them. The conclusions of the special commission comprising farmer delegates will constitute the platform of the CTSP and government policy. Second, there are our countrymen living abroad [applause] who contributed significantly to the struggle for democracy. We take official notice of that and call on them to join their brothers who remained at home. Their dynamism and know-how will be valuable to us in the nation-building process. [applause] [passage omitted] [end recording]

Toure Addresses Closing Session

AB1408124091 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television
du Mali Radio in French 2000 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Address by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure to the closing session of the National Conference held in Bamako from 29 July to 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen delegates to the national conference, ladies and gentlemen representing

friendly countries and international organizations accredited to Mali, dear guests:

The National Conference marks a decisive stage in our country's history. For two weeks it served as the forum in which, for the first time in our country's contemporary history, all shades of political opinion worked ardently and patriotically toward drawing up a constitution on which the future of Mali will be based. The national conference, born out of the political will which has been asserted since the revolution of 26 March 1991, illustrates the determination of the Transition Committee for the People's Salvation [CTSP] and the government to continue, without any calculations, implementing the program of the transitional phase toward the establishment of genuine rule of law within the framework of a multiparty democracy.

The draft constitution that you have just adopted, constitutes the birth certificate of the Third Republic. [applause] We devoted much attention to it and have through it proclaimed our irreversible attachment to democracy and a multiparty system. [passage omitted]

As we pointed out during the current session, the apprenticeship of democracy is difficult; that is why we should remain vigilant in order to avoid unnecessary drifting that could undermine state authority. We should all make the necessary efforts to combine our energies in this delicate phase, especially because the challenges to be taken up are many and complex. They concern, notably, the return of peace and stability in the northern region of our country, the consolidation of national reconciliation, and the reconstruction of the economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, concerning what is now commonly called the problem of the North, it is by far the most urgent and the most crucial among all the issues demanding our attention because it has cost and is still costing our entire nation enormous human and economic sacrifices. In short, it constitutes the most serious threat to our nascent democracy, national unity, and to the very republican nature of the state. The struggle and debates initiated on this preoccupying issue have enabled you to assess the entire complexity of the issue as well as all the stakes involved in it.

The CTSP remains faithful to the commitments made and to the political options defined after 26 March 1991. These options aim at adopting new, statutory, and practical legislative provisions aimed at finding a political solution to the problem by integrating the specificities and peculiarities of all parts of our national territory. This is deemed necessary in respect of the cardinal principles of national unity, the territorial integrity of the nation, and the sovereignty of the entire Malian people. [applause].

That is why all the efforts of this conference are directed toward finding ways and means of urgently establishing peace and security in the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Regions. This is not aimed at [words indistinct] the implementation of which we invite all sides in the

conflict to pay heed to the solemn appeal to their good faith and patriotism: first we call for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in order to set calm and peaceful conditions [applause]; second, we call for the renewal of the necessary contact during this period for creating favorable psychological conditions for the people's relief and good disposition of the factions involved in the conflict to initiate a settlement of the conflict; and finally we call for convening a special conference for the development of the arid zones of Mali in order to settle, once and for all, the many problems facing the people in that part of our country. [applause]

It is at this price and only at this price that our country can concentrate on the search for a solution to its development problems. It is only at this price that we shall save our nascent democracy because without peace and security, any society is doomed to sure failure. [passage omitted]

After the trauma resulting from the criminal use of the Army by the defunct regime, all efforts must be directed toward creating the right harmony between the people and their Army [applause] under the banner of democracy because the Army also paid a high tribute to nepotism, corruption, and shady deals. To break away, once and for all, from this deviation which is attributable to a policy of clans, our Army has, since 26 March 1991, turned resolutely toward reconciling itself with the people and is committed to maintaining its fundamental task which consists in serving the nation exclusively. [applause]

On behalf of the CTSP and the government, I would like to renew our determination to accomplish, in all openness and firmness, all the tasks of purging necessitated by the 26 March 1991 Revolution [applause]; to conduct without any complacency the investigations and legal prosecution against all those who committed crimes against our people; to work constantly for the consolidation of our democratic achievements in order to render irreversible the democratization of public life. [passage omitted]

National Conference Ends

AB1308120191 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT
13 Aug 91

[Text] Bamako, Aug 13 (AFP)—A two-week conference on Mali's political future ended late Monday with agreement on a draft constitution enshrining multiparty politics for the first time in the country's 30 years of independence. Interim military ruler Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Toumani Touré, who chaired the gathering of almost 2,000 delegates, hailed the results as proof that moves towards democracy were irreversible. He reaffirmed his determination to hand over power to an elected president next January, as he pledged after toppling the 23-year regime of General Moussa Traore in March. A total of 46 political parties have sprung up since then. The draft legislation is to be put to a referendum.

Toure Meets Northerners; Special Conference Noted

*AB1608215091 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television
du Mali Radio in French 2000 GMT 13 Aug 91*

[Text] This afternoon Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, head of state and chairman of the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People [CTSP], received expatriate Malians, and this morning he received citizens of the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Regions at the National Assembly. During the meeting, they discussed the forthcoming special conference on the north. The conference is slated for 15 November in Timbuktu. Souleymane Kakape has the details:

[Kakape] The problem of the North is no longer a racial issue, but rather that of a mismanaged and mishandled socioeconomic problem coupled with the drought, the head of state said. The head of state also raised the issue of banditry, which has been spurred by the rebellion thus aggravating the problem of the North. The CTSP and the government are working hard to find a solution to this painful situation. According to the head of state, democracy without peace is not real democracy. He therefore called on all Malians to make their personal contributions to the efforts for restoring total peace to this region where insecurity is reigning. The various speakers emphasized the absence of a true development policy in the north since independence, the uncertainty of life, the problem of food supply, and the failure to respect of the Tamnarrasset Agreement.

According to the prime minister, there is confusion in the field. The government does not know with whom to negotiate because of the great number of rebel movements. The Prime Minister Zoumana Sacko explained the policy of the CTSP and the government—a policy that is in line with the recommendations of the national conference—in allowing every community in Mali to administer its own affairs.

Concerning holding a special conference on the North, (?an agenda was approved), setting the date for 15 November in Timbuktu. The document suggested creating regional and national preparatory committees which will be responsible for compiling information, the issues to be discussed and their solutions, dispatching documents to the combatting movements for consultations, and finally, summoning the conference.

Already the Azawad Popular Movement, through its Secretary General Iyyad Ag Ghaly, has accepted the terms of this document but asserted that there is also the need for all the dissidents to participate in the conference in order to make it successful. Before then, there is the need to establish a cease-fire in the field, work toward the return of refugees, and reconcile the various groups of the people. In a word, it is necessary to install confidence and reconciliation in the hearts and minds of the people. This problem of the North is a national problem requiring a national solution. A remedy acceptable to all sides must be found. It is necessary to avoid destructive foreign interference. The North is a geostrategic zone.

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23 Aug. 1991

